

A Guide to the Colorado Academic Standards



Novice-Low Proficiency Range

Working Together

To support families and teachers in realizing the goals of the Colorado Academic Standards, this guide provides an overview of the learning expectations for world languages and offers some possible learning experiences students may engage in as they progress through the novice-low proficiency range of language development.

Why Standards?

Created by Coloradans for Colorado students, the Colorado Academic Standards provide a grade-by-grade road map to help ensure students are ultimately successful in college, careers, and life. The standards aim to improve what students learn and how they learn in ten content areas, emphasizing critical-thinking, creativity, problem solving, collaboration, and communication as important life skills in the 21st century.

World Languages for Elementary and Secondary Schools (K-12)

The world language standards create a roadmap to guide students in the process of learning a new language and understanding diverse cultural perspectives, as well as developing insights into their own language and culture. The standards reflect a performance-based discipline which emphasizes communication skills (speaking, listening, reading, and writing) in a new language to navigate real-life situations. Students use the newly acquired language while making connections with other academic disciplines and comparisons of cultural practices and products, preparing them to participate more fully in the global community and the international marketplace.


Where can I learn more?

- Contact your school district regarding local decisions related to standards, curriculum, resources, and instruction.
- Colorado Academic Standards Booklets: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/GradeLevelBooks.asp>
- Anna Huffman, Principal Standards Specialist at 720-626-2052, Huffman_a@cde.state.co.us



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At the end of this level,
students can.....



World Languages

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Language Proficiency Range Levels

Language proficiency refers to the degree of skill with which a person can use a language to understand, speak, read, write, and listen in real-life situations. Colorado's standards provide guidance for the introduction of a new language (novice-low) through the minimum proficiency range deemed postsecondary and workforce ready (intermediate-mid). Progression through levels of proficiency is influenced by program design (grade levels, competency-based programs, time for language instruction) and a student's individual rate of acquiring language.

World Languages Learning Expectations for Novice-Low Proficiency Range

Interpersonal Mode (Speaking and Writing)

Communicate on very familiar topics using single words and phrases that have been practiced and memorized.

Interpretive Mode (Listening, Reading, and Viewing)

Recognize a few memorized spoken words and phrases; recognize a few letters or characters; identify a few memorized words and phrases in texts.

Presentational Mode (Speaking and Writing)

Orally present basic personal information and other very familiar topics using single words or memorized phrases; copy familiar words, characters or phrases.

Throughout the Novice-Low Proficiency Range, you may find students... *(using the target language to...)*

- Meet and greet their peers and the teacher in socially and culturally appropriate ways.
- Ask and answer simple questions about personal information.
- Read city signs (especially if the words look like English words).
- Sing or listen to a song from the target culture and compare it to a song in their culture.
- Label familiar places and objects in pictures, posters or online sources.